

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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VISAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS PINS NI

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF U.S. NIGERIAN RECIPROCAL VISA REGULATIONS

1. NIGERIAN JOURNALIST IN U.S., CHAFING UNDER SINGLE ENTRY VISA LIMITATION ISSUED ON BASIS OF "RECIPROCITY", CLAIMS NIGERIAN RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL OF MANY AMERICAN NEWSMEN ACROSS NIGERIAN BORDERS NOT AS RIGID AND RESTRICTIVE AS USG'S.

2. DEPARTMENT, SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE PRESENCE OF MORE WORKING BLACK AFRICAN NEWSMEN IN U.S., WOULD LIKE TO FACILITATE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL OF AFRICAN JOURNALISTS ACROSS U.S. BORDERS, INCLUDING, IMPORTANTLY, NIGERIANS. IF POSSIBLE, WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAYS OF USING U.S. VISA "RECIPROCITY" POSITIVELY TO ENCOURAGE RECIPROCAL

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NIGERIAN RELATION OF ENTRY PRACTICES WHICH MAY, IN FACT,

BE MORE CAPRICIOUS AND ARBITRARY THAN RESTRICTIVE.

3. NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS NOT PRODUCED REQUESTED COPIES OF NIGERIAN VISA REGULATIONS TO PERMIT DEPARTMENT TO JUDGE WHETHER U.S. VISA SCHEDULE IS RECIPROCAL TO NIGERIAN PRACTICE.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST COPY OF CURRENT NIGERIAN VISA REGULATIONS. WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY

OBJECTIVE SUMMING UP OF EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE OF ACTUAL NIGERIAN PRACTICES IN ALLOWING OR PROHIBITING ENTRIES, SINGLE OR MULTIPLE, BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

5. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD ADD TO OR CONFIRM DEPARTMENT KNOWLEDGE OF IDENTITY AND NUMBER OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED ENTRY IN 1974, HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO SINGLE ENTRY VISAS, OR HAVE HAD THEIR APPLICATIONS INORDINATELY DELAYED.

6. CONVERSELY, WHAT IS TREATMENT ACCORDED AMERICAN NEWSMEN? DO THEY RECEIVE SINGLE ENTRY VISAS? DO SOME ENJOY, IN FACT, IF NOT IN LAW, MULTIPLE ENTRY PRIVILEGES?

7. FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, USG PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS BY ENCOURAGING FREEDOM OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR ALL JOURNALISTS. THUS, U.S. REGULATORY POLICY BASED ON "RECIPROCITY" SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH POLICY OF "RETALIATION." LATTER CAN ONLY LEAD TO ESCALATING RESTRICTIONS AND NEGATE GOAL OF FACILITATING JOURNALISTIC FREEDOM OF TRAVEL. IT IS IN THIS POSITIVE SPIRIT THAT USG WISHES TO REVIEW U.S. NIGERIAN VISA REGULATIONS AND ENTRY PRACTICES.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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